

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00132 061559Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01

SCCT-01 DHA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /088 W

----- 122797

R 061453Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9623

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: RABIN ON PLO: SOFTER TONE, HIGHER ANTE

BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT RABIN INTERVIEW IN LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR HAS PROVOKED CRITICISM HERE FOR APPARENTLY WEAKENING ISRAELI STANCE ON PLO BY STATING SPECIFIC CONDITION UNDER WHICH RECOGNITION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. SINCE RABIN'S CONDITION IS RENUNCIATION BY PLO OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COVENANT, HOWEVER, HIS REMARKS SEEM TO PROMISE CONTINUATION OF ISRAELI REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH PLO EVEN IN EVENT PLO WERE TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.
END SUMMARY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ISRAELI PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00132 061559Z

COVERAGE TO REMARKS BY PRIMIN RABIN CONCERNING POSSIBILITY

OF DEALING WITH PLO IN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN JANUARY 5 EDITION OF FRENCH WEEKLY LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR. TREATMENT HERE HIGHLIGHTS HIS STATEMENT THAT, IN HYPOTHETICAL EVENT THAT PLO SHOULD RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, ISRAEL WILL DETERMINE THE IMPLICATIONS FROM A PRACTICAL VIEWPOINT AND WILL DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS.

2. HAARETZ EDITORIAL JANUARY 5, UNDER HEADLINE "RABIN CHANGES POSTURE," CRITICIZES PRIME MINISTER FOR WEAKENING CURRENT ISRAELI POSITION OF REFUSING TO TALK WITH PLO UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND FOR MOVING TOWARD "YARIV FORMULA." ACCORDING TO EDITORIAL, "IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT THE PLO HAS CEASED TO BE 'MOUT OF THE QUESTION' AS AMATTER OF PRINCIPLE." HAARETZ DEDUCES THAT "IT IS NOT ISRAEL'S PERSUASIVE POWER THAT HAS BEEN DECISIVE, BUT THE POWER OF INFLUENCE WHICH ORIGINATES IN WASHINGTON."

3. RABIN WAS ALSO TAKEN TO TASK FOR INTERVIEW AT JANUARY 5 KNESSET MEETING BY MKS MELAMED (NRP) AND LANDAU (HERUT-LIKUD). LATTER IS QUOTED AS SAYING "NOW THE WORLD KNOWS THAT WE ARE READY TO SIT WITH ARAFAT."

4. LOCAL NEWS STORIES ALSO MENTION FACT THAT IN SAME INTERVIEW RABIN EMPHASIZED THAT CHANGE IN PLO POLICY WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE RENUNCIATION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COVENANT. AT CABINET SESSION JANUARY 4, RABIN REPORTEDLY UNDERScoreD THIS POINT AND STRESSED THAT HIS APPROACH THEREFORE DIFFERED FROM THAT OF U.S., WHICH POSTULATES NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO IF PLO "ONLY" RECOGNIZES ISRAEL AND ACCEPTS UNSC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. IN CRITICIZING THIS PORTION OF INTERVIEW SPECIFICALLY, HAARETZ EDITORIAL SAYS "RABIN EVEN MENTIONED...THE PRICE THAT THE PLO WOULD HAVE TO PAY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FROM US ITS 'LICENSE.' "

5. JANUARY 5 EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE TREATS INTERVIEW UNDER HEADING "RABIN EASES STAND." END UNCLASSIFIED

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: BOTH HERALD TRIBUNE AND HAARETZ HAVE HIGHLIGHTED SLIGHTLY MORE POSITIVE TONE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00132 061559Z

NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR INTERVIEW. TWO MKS HAVE DONE LIKEWISE, TAKING RABIN TO TASK FOR SPECIFYING IN CONCRETE TERMS WHAT PLO MUST DO TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION FROM ISRAEL. NEVERTHELESS, IN SPECIFYING PLO RENUNCIATION OF PALESTINIANNATIONAL COVENANT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT RABIN HAS CONSIDERABLY RAISED THE ANTE NECESSARY FOR THE PLO TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATING GAME. INSO DOING, HESEEMS TO HAVE MET A MAJOR CONCERN OF ISRAELI OFFICIALS--WHAT TO DO IF THE PLO (AT

JANUARY 12 UNSC MEETING OR ELSEWHERE) WERE TO ISSUE A STATE-
MENT WHICH WAS VAGUE ON SPECIFICS BUT NEVERTHELESS ACCEPTABLE
TO WORLD OPINION OR, MORE PARTICULARLY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
BY LINKING ISRAELI RECOGNITION OF THE PLO TO ITS RENUNCIATION
OF THE COVENANT (WHICH FROM HERE SEEMS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY),
RABIN HAS IN FACT REDUCED THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE TWO PARTIES
FINDING A COMMON GROUND.

IN FACT, BRING COVENANT INTO PICTURE COULD IMPLY
THAT NOT EVEN CLEAR PLO STATEMENT RECOGNIZING ISRAEL AND
ACCEPTING RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WILL SUFFICE.
DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, RECOGNITION, PRESS CONFERENCES, RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV00132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-0099
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760182/aaaacutc.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABIN ON PLO: SOFTER TONE, HIGHER ANTE BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT RABIN INTERVIEW IN LE NOUVEL OBSERVA-
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, PLO, (RABIN, YITSHAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006